

RECOVERY WEEKLY CHECK-IN WITH DMPED

Economic Recovery Updates

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020

[CORONAVIRUS.DC.GOV/RECOVERY](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/recovery)

DMPED
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WE ARE
WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Welcome

Deputy Mayor John Falcicchio
Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)

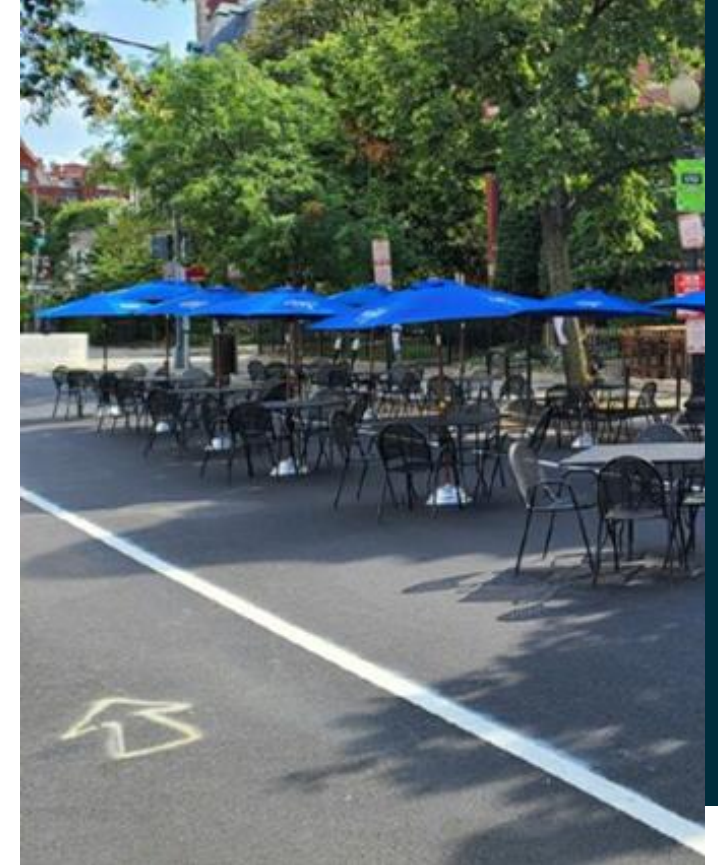
Streatery Winter Ready Grant Program

Shawn Townsend, Director, Mayor's Office of
Nightlife and Culture

Streatery Winter Ready Grants

A new **\$4 million** Streatery Winter Ready Grant program will support restaurants as they winterize their outdoor dining areas in order to maintain outdoor dining operations through the colder months.

The Mayor's Office of Nightlife & Culture, along with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, will provide grant recipients with \$6,000 to purchase winterization materials such as tents, heaters, propane, lighting, furniture, advertising costs, and more.



Businesses can apply starting Monday, September 21, by visiting coronavirus.dc.gov/recovery-business

Update from DC Health Link

Mila Kofman, Executive Director, DC Health Benefit
Exchange



DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority

Mila Kofman, JD
Executive Director
Email: mila.kofman@dc.gov



ACA and DC Health Link Background

- Last state to start IT build, 1 of 4 state marketplaces opened for business on time (& stayed open) Oct 1, 2013
- DC: nearly 97% of District residents insured.
 - ✓ Uninsured rate cut in half since DC Health Link opened
 - ✓ DC is #2 for lowest uninsured rate
 - ✓ DC Health Link #1 for consumer decision support tools
 - ✓ DC Health Link won 3 AWS IT awards, replaced and operates MA's IT marketplace for small businesses, and PR News recognitions
- Small group & individual market through DC Health Link:
 - **100,000 people** (private health insurance): 80,000 employees and dependents covered by District small businesses and non-profits (5,100+ District employers covered; 11,000 Congress -- Members and designated staff in district offices and on the Hill); 17,000 residents (individual);

Health plans that fit all budgets (2020):

- **156 health plans** (3 United Healthcare Companies; 2 Aetna; Kaiser Permanente, and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield) – small group
- **25 health plans** (Kaiser and CareFirst) – individual



COVID-19 Help for residents and employers

- 1. What we've done to help residents get insured**
- 2. What we've done to help small businesses and nonprofits get insured and stay insured**
- 3. What we've done to remove barriers to care for residents and businesses**



What we've done to help residents get insured:

- ✓ **We created a special enrollment outside of the annual open enrollment period.** Usually need a life event, like marriage, to enroll outside of open enrollment. Now all can enroll. We also changed IT system to open enrollment status making it easy to shop & enroll. The COVID-19 special enrollment was set to expire on Sep 15. Our board unanimously extended this through January 31, 2021 (and it will automatically extend if Mayor Bowser continues the public health emergency beyond Jan 31, 2021). What's also important is that coverage can start immediately (e.g. if enroll on Sept. 22, resident chooses Sep. 1 or Oct. 1 for coverage start).
- ✓ **Special enrollment for employees & dependents who turned down employer's coverage in the past (employer's health insurance is through DCHHealthLink).**
- ✓ Nearly 5000 residents signed up for individual health insurance and nearly 800 people who in the past turned down their job coverage signed up. *(Some live in states with the federal exchange, e.g. VA, and cannot get coverage because the federal government is not allowing uninsured people to sign up)*
 - ✓ Data: weekly comparison to last year shows week of April 5, 2020 71% higher sign-ups than week of April 5, 2019. To-date in 2020 we are about 20% higher sign ups than same time period in 2019.



What we've done to help small businesses and nonprofits get insured and stay insured:

- ✓ **Waived requirement to contribute to premium.** If a business can't afford to contribute to employee premium, can still sign up.
- ✓ **Created a new premium deferment period:** Employers can defer premium payments up to 60 days after the Public Health Emergency ends. This is automatically applied so no need to request.
- ✓ **Employers have 1 year to payback owed premiums without late fees or interest** (Commissioner Karima Woods' Emergency Order, DISB)
- ✓ **Never charge late fees or interest for employers covered through DC Health Link**
- ✓ **Not terminating coverage for non-payment** – that's for both employers and residents enrolled through us (Commissioner Karima Woods' Emergency Order, DISB)
 - 800+ employers in arrears (10,000 workers and dependents)
- ✓ **Worked with health plans for premium relief: CareFirst and United Healthcare provided more than \$4 Million in premium relief for DC Health Link employers.** We implemented this so employers saw a reduction in their bills this summer.



What we've done to remove barriers to care for residents and businesses

- ✓ Worked with our health plans and they agreed to provide no cost telemedicine for all care NOT just COVID-19 for a period of time – mental health care, primary care, specialists – free telephone and video visits/care.
- ✓ Health plans also agreed to provide no cost diagnosis and testing for COVID-19. Subsequent Emergency Order from Commissioner Woods requires health plans to cover treatment for COVID-19 without copays, deductibles, or coinsurance.



- ✓ Worked with Department of Employment Services to include health insurance enrollment information for people applying for unemployment insurance.
- ✓ Worked with DC Health's contact tracers to make sure residents know that it's not too late to get health insurance and coverage starts immediately

Update from the Creative Affairs Office

Maryann Lombardi, Associate Director

Update from the Creative Affairs Office

DC Office of Creative Affairs is supporting the District's Creative Economy through:

- Policy and policy awareness
- Infrastructure Partnerships
- Economic Mobility Activities



CREATIVE AFFAIRS OFFICE
Government of the District of Columbia

CARE for CREATIVES

- Provides pay-what-you-can **mental health support for creatives and entrepreneurs** in the area.
- Partnership with the **DC Creative Affairs Office, George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD)** and **The Community Counseling Services Center (CCSC)**.

Email CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu to be paired with a clinician.

Email maryann.lombardi@dc.gov with any questions.

Mayor's Arts Awards



- The 35th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards is Sept. 30, 7 pm on DCN and live-streamed on OCTFME's YouTube and Facebook.
- Attend the socially distanced watch party at Park Up DC, located at Lot 5 on RFK's campus.
- RSVP at: www.dcmayorsartsawards.com
- An event not to be missed!

Guest Speaker

Violetta Markelou, Photographer and Visual Artist

Violetta Markelou



<- Photo of Barber, Lesley Bryant outside of her closed barbershop, Lady Clipper on U Street NW

Violetta Markelou



<- Photo of
Louie Hankins,
owner of El
Techo / Rito
Loco in front of
his closed
restaurant on
Florida Avenue
NW

Open Discussion

Q & A

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